

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(6)



Washington, D.C. 20505

8 May 2002



Reference: F-2002-00648

Dear 

This acknowledges receipt, on 29 April 2002, of your 29 and 30 November 2001 letters requesting records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). For identification purposes we have assigned your request the number referenced above. Please refer to this number in future correspondence.

As you may know, the discovery of anthrax in a letter mailed to the United States Senate on 15 October 2001 led to a series of escalating safety concerns about opening, handling, and even being in the proximity of mail, especially in government offices in Washington, D.C. These concerns, in turn, led to disruptions in, and then total curtailments of, mail delivery service, including Freedom of Information Act-related correspondence, at many federal agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Under such extraordinary circumstances, the administration of the Freedom of Information Act has inevitably been delayed at all affected federal agencies. As a matter of both common sense and legal precedent, when mail delivery is delayed, so is the commencement of the process of FOIA administration, regardless of the time at which a FOIA request is placed into the mail by the requester or postmarked thereafter. Simply put, the FOIA process cannot begin until the personnel of an agency FOIA office are able to open any belatedly delivered item of mail.

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE ☐ DATE:
08-Oct-2008

As to your letters, I must advise you that the CIA is unable to process this, or any, FOIA request from you because our records indicate you owe past-due fees to the U.S. Government. As set forth in our regulations (32 CFR § 1900.11), "requests ... received from members of the public who owe outstanding fees for information services at [CIA] or other federal agencies *will not be accepted....*" It will be necessary for you to substantiate that you have paid any and all such debts before this agency will act on any request that you may submit. Accordingly, your request has been administratively cancelled.

Sincerely,



Kathryn I. Dyer
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure